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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

NORMAN, SAMICA L

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/711,705	Applicant(s) GRANT, JR. ET AL.	
	Examiner SAMICA L. NORMAN	Art Unit 3696	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-14,16,17,19,20,27 and 30-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1, 4-10,27 and 30-36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14,16,17,19,20 and 23-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 4-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 27 and 30-36 are pending.

Claims 2, 3, 15, 18, 21, 23, 28 and 29 are cancelled.

The 35 U.S.C. 101 Rejection is withdrawn due to applicant's current amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 14, 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

3. Claim 14 has been amended to recite "wherein determining the risk further comprises at least **two** of."

4. Claim 26 has been amended to recite "wherein the risk rating tool is programmed to present a graphical user interface for a user to select **each of**."

5. These limitations are not supported by the specification of the instant invention.

Therefore, the limitations are considered **New Matter**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 11-14, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lawrence et al., U.S. PG-Pub No. 2002/0138407 (reference A on the attached PTO-892).

3. As per claim 11, Lawrence et al. teaches a method to evaluate anti-money laundering risk, comprising: presenting a graphical user interface using a computer processor (see paragraph 0032, lines 1-4 and paragraph 0057, lines 1-11) for a user to select or enter a response or answer to each of a multiplicity of criteria or questions associated with a group including a selected country, a selected financial product or investment, and a selected customer type, wherein the multiplicity of criteria or questions presented in the graphical user interface comprise: allowing identifying a person or other legal entity to be evaluated (see paragraph 0042, lines 1-4); allowing selecting a country associated with the person or other legal entity; selecting at least one financial product or investment associated with the person or other legal entity (see paragraph 0045, lines 3-10); allowing input of the person or other legal entity's sophistication

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(see paragraph 0027, lines 4-7); and allowing input of a level of complexity of the at least one selected financial product of investment (see paragraph 0024, lines 1-2); allowing selecting a customer type associated with the person or other legal entity (see paragraph 0048, lines 1-4); and determining a risk rating using a computer based on responses to predetermined criteria or question related to the selected country, the at least one selected financial product or investment and the selected customer type (see paragraph 0048, lines 16-20), wherein determining the risk rating comprises: evaluating the person or other legal entity's sophistication with respect to the at least one selected financial product or investment (see paragraph 0027, lines 4-7); determining the at least one selected financial product or investment's propensity for use for money laundering (see paragraph 0045, lines 3-10); determining the at least one selected financial product or investment's attractiveness for use by terrorist; evaluating the level of complexity of the at least one selected financial product or investment; determining if the at least one selected financial product or investment is currently monitored for use with respect to illegal activity; determining a level of the person or other legal entity's knowledge of the at least one financial product or investment; and determining a level of ease of obtaining and using the at least one financial product or investment; and presenting the risk rating to a user (see paragraph 0054, lines 1-4).

4. As per claim 12, Lawrence et al. teaches the method of claim 11 as described above. Lawrence further teaches wherein determining the risk comprises setting a value corresponding to each of the responses to the predetermined criteria or question (see paragraph 0048, lines 4-8).
5. As per claim 13, Lawrence et al. teaches the method of claim 12 as described above. Lawrence further teaches wherein determining the risk comprises calculating one of an average

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or a weighted average of the values based on the selected country, the at least one selected financial product or investment and the selected customer type (see paragraph 0037, lines 3-6).

6. As per claim 14, Lawrence et al. teaches the method of claim 11 as described above.

Lawrence further teaches wherein determining the risk comprises at least two of: evaluating if the selected country is a cooperative jurisdiction; determining if the selected country was a party to the 1988 United Nations Convention on drugs; evaluating a quality of banking regulation and oversight in the selected country; determining if the selected country is associated with terrorist related activity or on the Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) list; evaluating a quality of local laws of the selected country; entering an International Narcotics Strategy Report Rating for the selected country; evaluating a level of government support in the selected country for enforcement of laws and regulations and prosecution of offenses; determining if the selected country is a member of Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF); and determining strength of a banking industry in the selected country (see paragraph 0054, lines 6-11).

7. As per claim 16, Lawrence et al. teaches the method of claim 11 as described above.

Lawrence further teaches wherein determining the risk comprises at least one of: determining if the person or other legal entity is currently being monitored with respect to financial activity; determining a level of risk of the person or other legal entity being associated with terrorist activity; evaluating a level of knowledge about the person or other legal entity; and determining if the person or other legal entity is known to be a high risk (see paragraph 0045, lines 3-10 and paragraph 0048, lines 16-20).

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8. As per claim 17, Lawrence et al. teaches a system to evaluate anti-money laundering risk, comprising: a server (see paragraph 0038, lines 1-5); and a risk rating tool operable on the server (see paragraph 0039, lines 1-6), wherein the risk rating tool is adapted to determine a risk rating based on responses to predetermined criteria related to a selected country, at least one selected financial product and a selected customer type (see paragraph 0048, lines 16-20), and wherein the risk rating tool is programmed to determine a risk rating based on responses to the predetermined criteria related to at least one selected financial product or investment (see paragraph 0026, lines 9-12 and paragraph 0032, lines 4-6), the predetermined criteria being selected or entered into a graphical user interface (see paragraph 0032, lines 1-4 and paragraph 0057, lines 1-11) and comprising: a customer sophistication with respect to the selected financial product or investment (see paragraph 0024, lines 1-2); a propensity of the selected financial product or investment for use for money laundering (see paragraph 0045, lines 3-10); an attractiveness of the selected financial product or investment for use by terrorist; a level of complexity of the financial product or investment (see paragraph 0024, lines 1-2); a current monitoring of the financial product or investment for use with respect to illegal activity; a level of a customer's or public's knowledge of the financial product or investment; and a level of ease of obtaining and using the financial product or investment.

9. As per claim 19, Lawrence et al. teaches the system of claim 18 as described above. Lawrence further teaches a value being set corresponding to each of the responses to the predetermined criteria (see paragraph 0048, lines 4-8).

10. As per claim 20, Lawrence et al. teaches the system of claim 19 as described above. Lawrence further teaches wherein the risk rating tool is programmed to calculate one of an

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average or a weighted average of the values based on the selected country, the at least one selected financial product and the selected customer type (see paragraph 0037, lines 3-6).

11. As per claim 23, Lawrence et al. teaches the system of claim 17 as described above.

Lawrence further teaches wherein the risk rating tool is programmed to determine a risk rating based on responses to predetermined criteria related to a selected customer type, the predetermined criteria comprising: a customer currently being monitored with respect to financial activity; a level of risk of the customer being involved in terrorist activity; a level of a financial institutions knowledge of its customer; and the customer being known to be a high risk (see paragraph 0045, lines 3-10 and paragraph 0048, lines 16-20).

12. As per claim 24, Lawrence et al. teaches the system of claim 17 as described above.

Lawrence further teaches wherein the risk rating tool is programmed to calculate a risk rating based on a set of values, each value being assigned to one of a plurality of different possible or selectable responses or answers for each of a multiplicity of criteria or questions associated with a group including at least one of a selected country, a selected financial product or investment and a selected customer type (see paragraph 0026, lines 9-12 and paragraph 0032, lines 4-6).

13. As per claim 25, Lawrence et al. teaches the system of claim 24 as described above.

Lawrence further teaches a database including reports used to determine each of the set of values (see paragraph 0051, lines 1-2).

14. As per claim 26, Lawrence et al. teaches the system of claim 17 as described above.

Lawrence further teaches wherein the risk rating tool is programmed to present a graphical user interface for a user to select each of: if the selected country is a cooperative jurisdiction; if the selected country is on an Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) list; an International Narcotics

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Strategy Report Rating associated with the selected country; if the selected country is a member of the Financial Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF); if the selected country was a party to a 1988 United Nations Convention; a quality of local laws and regulations associated with the selected country; a level of government support related to enforcement of laws and regulations and prosecution of offenses; a strength of a banking industry associated with the selected country; and a quality of banking regulation and oversight associated with the selected country (see paragraph 0054, lines 6-11).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed May 22, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

16. Applicant argues that Lawrence et al. does not disclose a graphical user interface at all to input information prior to determining the risk rating. Lawrence et al. clearly discloses this limitation in paragraph 0032, lines 1-4 and paragraph 0057, lines 1-11.

17. Applicant argues that Lawrence et al. does not recite the very specific limitation of what is allowed to be inputted. "Allowing" does not mean a task is actually performed. Furthermore, the specification of the instant application does not require that all of the limitations must be met.

Conclusion

18. Applicant(s) are reminded that as a matter of linguistic precision, optional or conditional elements (e.g. "if," "may," etc.) do not narrow the claims because they can always be omitted.

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See also MPEP §2106 II C: “Language that suggest or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation. [Emphasis in original.]”

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAMICA L. NORMAN whose telephone number is (571)270-1371. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 6:30a-5p, w/ Fri off.

20. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Thomas Dixon can be reached on (571) 272-6803. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

21. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ella Colbert/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3696

sln